

PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

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Some Key Issues

- 1. Eligible Applicants:** As defined by the authorizing legislation, only Private Industry Councils, Workforce Investment Boards, or consortia of PICs and WIBs are eligible applicants for H-1B Technical Skill Training Grants. However, the Department of Labor is encouraging broad consortia that involve all relevant stakeholders, including employers, unions, community-based organizations, and educational institutions. In addition, the requirement that PIC/WIBs must be the applicant does not mean that they must be the program operator.
- 2. Business Involvement:** The Department of Labor is requiring that eligible applicants demonstrate that they have the involvement of a wide representation of the business community in their region.
- 3. Defining a Region:** The Department of Labor defines a region as an area, which exhibits a commonality of economic interest. As such, a region may include several natural labor market areas or one large labor market. If the region involves multiple economic and/or political jurisdictions, it is essential that they be continuous. A region may be either intrastate or interstate.
- 4. Identifying Skills Shortages:** Applicants are encouraged to utilize all available data resources to document regional skills shortages. These may include: H-1B applications, newspaper want ads, statements of need by local employers, labor market data, data from the One Stop Career Center(s) and so on.
- 5. Target Population:** Both employed and unemployed workers are eligible for training. While trainees must clearly be capable of filling the targeted occupations, the Department of Labor encourages applicants to make special efforts to include women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups.
- 6. Sustainability:** The Department of Labor is particularly interested in applicants that can demonstrate sustainability of the proposed program. One form of evidence of this local commitment is financial contribution. As such, all applicants must provide resources (cash or in-kind) equivalent to at least 25 percent of the grant award as match.
- 7. Allowable Services:** The H-1B funds are intended to provide training. In general, most support services must be provided from other funds. The Department is, however, allowing administrative costs to be charged to the grant.